

The Hawaiian Star

SECOND SECTION

PAGES 9 TO 12.

HONOLULU, HAWAII, TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 1912.

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ATTEMPT ON KING VICTOR'S LIFE BY ASSASSIN IN ROME

ROME, March 4.—An attempt was made to assassinate King Victor Emmanuel this morning. Three shots were fired at the king, but all missed their target and his majesty escaped unhurt. His assailant was arrested. He gave his name as Antonio Dalba.

The king was just leaving the palace on his way to the Pantheon to attend the annual memorial service in honor of his father, King Humbert, who was slain by an assassin at Monza, July 29, 1900.

Man Fires from Behind Crowd.
Dalba fired from behind the crowd in the streets. One of the officers of the king's bodyguard fell wounded.

There was tremendous excitement in the crowd, which turned on Dalba, a mere youth, and attempted to lynch him. The police finally rescued him from the clutches of the mob.

The procession was passing along the Via Lata when the shots rang out from amid the crowd. The soldiers following the carriage immediately dashed forward and as they did so their commander fell from his horse.

King Calm in Crisis.

The wounded officer was moved to one side by some of his men while the others dashed up to the royal carriage, where they found the king and queen sitting calm and unmoved. Meanwhile the crowd seized the man who had fired the shots and attempted to lynch him. He was so badly handled that he was scarcely able to answer questions when he was handed over to the police.

The royal procession was scarcely interrupted, but proceeded toward the Pantheon, where the mass of King Humbert was completed without further incident, and after the conclusion of the service the king and queen returned to the Quirinal along the same route.

King Goes to See Wounded Soldier.

On the arrival at the palace the king learned for the first time that the commander of his escort, Maj. Lang, had been wounded, and his majesty at once started for the hospital where the major was lying. He traveled in an open automobile, and showed no signs of having passed through an ordeal.

Physicians in charge of Maj. Lang say that he probably will recover within a fortnight. His helmet deflected the bullet and he received only a slight scalp wound. The ball was found inside his helmet. He suffered more from the shock of the fall from his horse, which caused slight concussion of the brain and severe bruises.

The man who had fired the shots had in the meantime been taken to the police station.

Dalba Says He Fired as Protest.

At the police station, in spite of the man's condition owing to the mishandling he had received from the crowds, he was subjected to a keen interrogation. He declared that his name was Antonio Dalba, that he was twenty-one years of age and that he was a stonemason. He described himself as an "individualist anarchist" and said that he had made the attempt on the king's life as a protest against the organization of society.

He had, he said, taken up a position in the crowd near the Odescalchi palace and waited for the king's coming from the Quirinal. When the royal carriage arrived opposite the place where he was standing he fired three shots at the king.

All the circumstances lead to the belief that the assassin of his majesty was not concerned in any plot of an organization, but that his deed was the outcome of his own individual aberration.

Pope Lays Act to Irreligion.

Pope Pius, who was told by Cardinal Merry del Val of the attempt on the king's life, expressed his regret and said: "These are the consequences of the irreligion of our times."

Dalba's mother said that her son, when a boy, had suffered from pneumonia and meningitis, which had left him weak minded. Within three months he was to be called for military service.

According to Italian law, Dalba, not being of full age, cannot be condemned to penal servitude for life. The most severe punishment meted out to him will not exceed thirty years.

The assassin, when interrogated by the police, said: "For a time I thought I would kill Victor Emmanuel, but I am satisfied with what I have done. Nobody instigated me to do the deed." Dalba does not belong to any political party. He has been twice sentenced for theft and once for maltreating his parents. He was born in Rome, but the family came from Abruzzi.

People Prepare for a Protest.
In all quarters of Rome demonstrations have been prepared to protest against the outrage, whose effect has been to increase Victor Emmanuel's popularity among all classes.

People who were present in the Pantheon say that, despite the narrow escape he had just had, the king went through the service without a tremor, the queen likewise showing no signs of emotion.

When the king and queen left the Pantheon in their closed carriage the news of the attack on his majesty had spread and immense crowds had gathered in the great open space in front.

The king's appearance was the signal for an overwhelming outburst of cheering from the crowd and the excitement of the people almost reached frenzy by the time their majesties had attained the Corso, near the spot

where the attempt to kill had occurred a short time before.

Throughout the return journey the people along the streets and standing at the windows and on balconies waved their handkerchiefs and cried enthusiastically "Long live the king."

One of King's Horses Wounded.
On the return to the palace of the king's carriage, it was found that one of the horses had been slightly wounded by a bullet.

When the king left the Pantheon after the mass one of the veterans guarding the tomb of King Humbert called to his companions:

"The king is safe! Let us shout 'Long live the king!'"

The enthusiasm among the venerable soldiers, some of whom were crippled in the battles of the war of independence and all of whom are decorated with many medals, was striking.

The impression made throughout the city by the attempt on the king's life is one of the deepest concern. The news of the affair struck the Romans the more keenly because it occurred on the anniversary of the birth of the late King Humbert and in the midst of the solemn services in his memory.

The spot near the Corso where the attempt was made has been surrounded all day by excited crowds waving Italian flags and shouting "Long live the king!"

A large number of people also proceeded to the Quirinal, where they made another demonstration.

Kissed by Dowager Queen.
A most touching scene occurred between King Victor Emmanuel and his mother, the Dowager Queen Margherita. She had arrived at the Pantheon and was waiting for the coming of their majesties. When the king and queen came in they gave no hint of what had occurred. All assisted at the mass and when it was over the king himself announced to his mother that an attempt had been made on his life. Queen Margherita appeared almost stunned. She stood still and looked over the king from head to foot as though to make sure that he was unharmed. Then she threw her arms around his neck and kissed him on both cheeks.

Many of those present wished to congratulate the king, but he left the Pantheon without waiting.

Assassin Rode a Bicycle.
Eye witnesses of the attack on the king say it occurred at a few minutes after 5 o'clock this morning. Dalba, in going to the spot, rode a bicycle, which he left in the doorway of the Salviati palace. When the royal pro-

ceeded toward the palace of the king, he was followed by a large number of people, some of whom were carrying banners and shouting "Long live the king!"

When they approached the city of Lochu a large number of armed men came toward them and began shooting. It was some time before they realized that the shooting was intended as a salute. The people of the city had heard that a large number of foreign soldiers were invading the country and when Sowerby's party approached they quite naturally drew the conclusion that they were the advance guard. They had decided that the best thing they could do was to make themselves solid with the advance guard. At another city the magistrates called upon them and requested that the commandant of the "foreign soldiers" should keep his men in during the night lest their going out might frighten the people.

At Peitong Christmas was celebrated in a Chinese inn. Two of the party were sent out to get a Christmas tree. Having forgotten to bring a knife, they shot at a tree with their revolvers until it fell down. This made a tremendous impression on the natives, who naturally drew the conclusion that the foreigners had so much ammunition that they could afford to shoot trees down whenever they needed any.

Arrival at Sianfu.
Sianfu was reached on December 27 after twenty-three days of actual riding. The people in Sianfu had been cut off from the outside world for almost three months. Sowerby's party found that many of the missionaries there had set out for Hankow with an escort of revolutionary soldiers. They held many conferences with the remaining missionaries in order to induce them to leave. Most of them were anxious to leave, but were afraid of offending Mr. Sherrock, who was continually minimizing the danger and advising the missionaries to remain in spite of the fact that

robbers, who called themselves Ko Lao Hui.

Met Many Robbers.
Leaving Suitechou, the party, including the missionaries, set out toward Yennanfu. On the road they met many parties of Ko Lao Hui armed with every conceivable kind of weapons, ancient, medieval and modern. The robbers, seeing that the foreigners were well armed, offered no resistance to their progress. One night Mr. Palmer, the American member of the party, who was guarding one of the palanquins, was left in the rear some distance owing to a breakdown. His little party was accosted by three armed men, who, however, decamped on learning that Mr. Palmer was a foreigner and seeing his drawn revolver ready for immediate use.

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They often saw rows of heads hung up in wicker cages as a warning to disturbers of the peace. In the cities which the robbers had not yet captured the people were busy manufacturing spears and swords with which to defend themselves. In some cities the police had very few guns and had to depend almost entirely upon swords and pikes for their safety. If the robbers attempted to scale the city walls they simply piked them down with their spears.

Amusing Experiences.
The party had many experiences which would have been extremely amusing had they not been more or less dangerous. For example, at Yennanfu they asked the authorities to give them an armed escort through the dangerous country to the south. The authorities said that their soldiers were quite willing to escort them, but were afraid to come back alone.

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MARCH OF SOWERBY PARTY TO RESCUE OF MISSIONARIES

PEKIN, February 20.—In a previous letter we mentioned the fact that a party of nine foreigners, headed by A. De C. Sowerby, set out from Taiyuanfu early in December in order to rescue the foreigners who had been cut off from communication with the outside world by the disorders arising out of the revolution. It now gives us great pleasure to chronicle the safe arrival in Pekin of this heroic party and the foreigners whom they rescued.

Whenever an opportunity has been given us during the last few days we have listened with rapt attention to the thrilling story of their adventurous journey on horseback, first to Sianfu and thence in company with the rescued missionaries to Honanfu. There are few things in this world more delightful to the ear than stories of brave deeds told in a modest and simple way by the heroes themselves. It was very difficult to induce any of the members of the Sowerby party to talk about their trip. They did not seem to be conscious that they had done anything remarkable or out of the way. It was only by patient questioning that we could get them to talk about their adventures.

Famed as Fiet Fighter.
The leader of the party, A. De C. Sowerby, is an Englishman, who has for some time been employed by the Smithsonian Institution to collect natural history specimens in North China. Most of his work has been done in the province of Shansi, where he is famous among the Chinese as the man who quelled a riot with his bare fists. The Chinese never fight with their fists. Such a mode of fighting is entirely unknown to them. The Chinese who make any pretensions of being gentlemen never fight at all. Others either wrestle, or fight with some sort of weapon. When they are very angry they pick up a spade or anything handy and try to strike the legs of their opponent so as to fell him to the ground. Once they get him down they hack away at him until he is either unconscious or dead.

Mr. Sowerby was once attacked in a small village in Shansi by a band of hoodlums armed with spades and poles. Seeing that they were ready to strike him down he found it necessary to give them a little exhibition in the gentle art of self-defense as practised by western peoples. He struck out vigorously to the right and left with the result that four or five Chinese were soon stretched on the ground and the rest fled precipitately. Fearing an attack by the whole village he got his guns out and barricaded the house where he was staying, but the people did not attack him. They reasoned that if he could fell men with his bare hands he could probably kill them all with his terrible foreign guns.

Even with such a leader it was nevertheless courageous on the part of the little band to set out in such troubled times to journey the enormous distance from Taiyuan to Sianfu. The revolution had completely broken down all law and order in that part of China. The whole region through which they traveled was infested with robbers and undisciplined revolutionary guerrillas.

Traveled on Ponies.
The little party was well armed, each having a Winchester, a revolver and plenty of ammunition. Their mounts were Chinese ponies, tough little animals well insured to cold and snowfooted as donkeys. These ponies proved very serviceable in the mountain passes, which the party had to cross a few days after their departure. The narrow ice-covered path which they followed across the mountains often wound its way along the edge of high precipices where a single misstep would have meant the death of both horse and rider.

The walled city of Suitechou was reached December 11. The inhabitants of this city had several days before been attacked by a large band of robbers, but had succeeded in repelling them. Being suspicious of strangers they closed the city gates in the face of Sowerby and his party. It was only after a great deal of parleying that they were allowed to enter the city. Here they found the missionaries, Mr. and Mrs. Watson and their children, and Mr. Cummerford, who were very grateful to them for coming to their rescue. The missionaries were just on the point of setting out alone and unarmed toward Yennanfu, when the Sowerby party arrived. Had they done so they would probably have been killed as the country to the south was under the control of a society of

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GUAYAQUIL NEEDS CLEANING UP

Peru Today, a monthly publication printed in the English language in Lima, calls upon the United States to interfere in behalf of international safety, and clean up Guayaquil, whether the disorganized government of Ecuador wishes it or not. It was in connection with the recent revolution in Ecuador that the cruiser Maryland was sent from here.

In light of the increasing amount of commerce from South American ports to Hawaii, the menace to which the Peru Today refers has peculiar interest here. The article follows:

A Pest Hole.
"How long is an International Public and Big Business, which rules the world at the last analysis, going to bear the danger and annoyance of the Guayaquil pest hole?"

"Have the people on this Coast, and those traveling, no rights at all? What does Uncle Sam think of the constant menace to the Canal of such a fever breeding place and the sacrifice of his good men in the Navy and Marine Hospital Service?"

"These are pertinent and direct questions caused by the recent death of Commander Bertolotto and sailors of the Yorktown and which surge in indignant protest at the regrettable loss of a brave and capable American officer and his loyal sailors whose lives are sacrificed because Guayaquil is allowed to be what it is."

"As in all good causes there must be a sacrifice, let us hope that these unnecessary deaths may arouse Washington to a realization that action must be taken for the protection of the Canal, if for no other reason, and doubtless the matter is having the serious consideration it deserves. What we want is action, such action as President Roosevelt thought justified when he determined to build the Canal."

"The Gordian knot must be cut, whether the niceties of international law are kept or not and the whole world will applaud any initiative that will make Ecuador clean its front door. This may be done without affecting their sovereignty, which means only borrowing it for the time being, to their great advantage and to that of the world."

"One of the reasons of the interference by the United States in Cuba was the recurrent epidemics of yellow fever in the southern States and the urgent need of destroying the source of that scourge, which lay in Havana."

"With this disease, as well as bubonic plague and smallpox within a few hundred miles of American territory through which a great waterway has been built at tremendous expense, is it not evident that likewise must this danger be removed as well as others in the immediate vicinity of the Canal, or at least those through which there is considerable snipping?"

"And the most ridiculous part of this problem is that the entire Ecuadorian nation will be benefited the moment a sanitary officer of the port of Guayaquil may give it a clean bill of health. Tourists and business-men will no longer avoid that land but will be delighted to visit that most interesting country. This will lead to investment and to the introduction of that foreign capital which its natural resources need for proper development."

"Let the really courageous and far-sighted statesmen of Ecuador face the cheap demagogues who oppose any action on the part of the United States not from conviction but as a political weapon and begin a campaign of education to show the masses that prosperity will follow upon the sanitation of Guayaquil because the foreigners will come with money and employment for all."

Morally as Well.
"It is unfortunate that recent events in Guayaquil have caused the civilized world to realize that if Ecuador is physically ill it is also morally so. The revolution of Montero, his trial, his assassination by a blood-thirsty mob and the consequent mutilation and burning of his body are indicative of disease."

"The brutal lynching of ex-president General Eloy Alfaro, and two of his relatives, and Generals Paex and Serrano by the mob at Quito, which followed the revolution, are indicative of disease."

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FRENCH PEOPLE PINNING THEIR FAITH TO THE AEROPLANE

G. Husson, of the Franco-American Automobile Company, St. Catherine street, has returned from Paris, where he has been for the past two months on a business trip, says the Montreal Witness.

Speaking to a Witness reporter this morning, Mr. Husson said that the French people were chiefly occupied now with the development of their aerial craft industry, and the remarkable progress which they were making was really extraordinary. Nearly every day records were being broken and it fairly made one gasp to witness the terrific speeds which were being made daily with aeroplanes.